role of Bank of Baroda Fiscal Services in acquiring Larsen and Toubro Equity on its account and subsequently transferring them to investment companies belonging to a certain industrial group ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In response to a request from BOB Fiscal Services Ltd. (a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda), UTI, LIC and GIC had in August-September, 1988 offered them a basket of blue chip equity shares including 39 lakh shares of L&T which was accepted by BOB Fiscal at the market rates prevailing on the date of purchase. BOB Fiscal have intimated that they did not Transfer these shares directly to any investment company of any industrial group.

The matter is *subjudice* and is pending before the Supreme Court. Meanwhile Chairman and Managing Director of the Bank of Baroda has proceeded on leave.

Execution of Narmada and Sardar Sarovar Projects

300. SHRI P. N. SUKUL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) what progress has so far been made with regard to the construction of the inter-State Narmada and Sardar Sarovar projects ;

(b) whether there have been agitations by environmentalists against the execution of these projects in the recent past ; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA) : (a) Construction works on the dam canals and power house of the Sardar Sarover Project are in progress. For Narmada Sagar Project in Madhya Pradesh preconstruction works like approach roads, diversion of railway line, colony, office buildings and excavations for the diversion tunnel, main dam and power house are in progress.

(b) and (c) There are some protests against the construction of the Sardar Sarovar Project and the Narmada Sagar Project doubting thier economic, social viability and expressing concerns about environment and displacement of population. These issues have already been gone into by Government before granting approval to these projects. Further two sub-groups of the Narmada Control Authority have been entrusted with the task of ensuring the implementation of environmental safeguards including compensatory afforestation, catchment area treatment and satisfactory resettlement of the oustees.

Outstanding Farm Loans

301. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of farm loans to be recovered under various categories like crop loans, medium term loan and rescheduled loans as standing due on 31st December, 1989 ; and

(b) whether any consultation has taken place with R.B.I. and the State Government to reduce the gors of such loans?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE) : (a) According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the total outstanding advances to agriculture of commercial banks, cooperatives and regional rural banks were of the order of Rs. 26,000 crores as at the end of June, 1989 (latest available).

(b) Matters relating to rural credit remain under the constant review of Government and Reserve Bank of India and the proposals of the State Governments when received are also taken into consideration.

Commission for Selection of Judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts

302. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a panel or Commission for the selection of judges to the Supreme Court and the High Courts; and

(b) if so, what are the details relating to the constitution of the Commission and by when it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF HE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) : (a) and (b) The Government intend to set up a High Level Judicial Commission for the appointment of Judges in the High Courts and the Supreme Court and for the transfer of Judges from one High Court to another. The details are being worked out. It is not possible to indicate by when the Commission is likely to start functioning.

Filling up of Vacant Posts of Junior Proof Readers in the Central Water Commission

303. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3039 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th August, 1989 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that against the reserved vacancies of Junior Proof Readers, candidates of un-reserved categories on *ad hoc* basis/daily wages have been appointed in the Central Water Commission ; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the concerned authorities to fill up the said reserved posts after June, 1989?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Since one SC candidate was found suitable against ST vacancy, the possibility of exchanging the vacancy reserved for ST for being filled by appointment of a SC candidate was explored. This has been found to be not permissible.

Alleged Political Interference in the Appointment of Judges

304. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the former Chief Justice of India has expressed dismay over political interference in the appointments of Supreme Court and High Court Judges recently as reported in the 'Independent' an English daily published from Bombay dated the 30th January 1990 ; and